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business and the professions

Innovation and Constraints in UAE HE

Dr Kevin Dunseath, Regional Director MENA

The UAE: a Hub of TNE

- Education the key driver for a knowledge economy
- UAE National Innovation Strategy and Dubai Plan 2021
- Abu Dhabi: NYU and INSEAD; RAK: Bolton, West London, Stirling
- HEPs in Dubai: in 30 years, 3 to 62; 33 international universities
- Wollongong, Heriot Watt, Middlesex, Birmingham, SP Jain, Bits Pilani; 12 different jurisdictions incl. Australia, India, Pakistan, Russia, UK, US
- 39 HEPs in FTZs (100% foreign ownership; tax-free)

City's Dubai Centre

Dubai Centre founded in 2007. Licensed by the DIFC and the KHDA
Degree programmes offered in Dubai:

- Cass Executive MBA
- MSc Air Transport Management
- MSc Air Safety Management
- MSc Airport Management
- MSc Aircraft Maintenance Management
- LLM Maritime Law



City's Degree Programmes in Dubai

- All classes in the DIFC; intensive block format, over UAE weekend days
- Designed for professionals in full time employment
- Taught by City faculty visiting from London
- Identical degree certificate to London-based students
- Diverse, cosmopolitan classes, mainly expatriate



Innovation: Two Current Constraints

1. Licensing/accreditation of HEPs/awards across the entire UAE
2. Recognition of online/distance learning degree programmes



Accreditation of Awards in the UAE

- Three types of institution operating in Dubai:
 - HEP Branch (e.g. City) – usually in a FTZ
 - HEP Local (e.g. American University in Dubai) – private or Dubai govt funded
 - HEP Federal (e.g. Zayed University) – established by federal decree
- Federal: MoE/Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA)
- Dubai FTZs: Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA)
 - Universities Quality Assurance International Board (UQAIB)
- FTZs: DCCA: DKP, DIC, DIAC; DIFC, DMCC, DHCC, DSO, DACC

I Hope You're Following So Far



UAE Licensing and Accreditation Processes

MoE/CAA:

For:

- + open to any HEP in UAE
- + gives UAE-wide recognition

Against:

- criteria have been very restrictive
- process has been highly bureaucratic

KHDA/UQAIB

For:

- + open (only) to HEPs in Dubai's FTZs
- + recognised across Dubai public and private sectors
- ++ more flexible criteria and less bureaucratic process

Against:

- not normally recognised by UAE public sector outside Dubai



Online and Distance Learning

- Traditional resistance to online/distance learning degree programmes across GCC – even if offered by recognised HEP
- CAA accepts ‘foreign online universities’ but only if the HEP and programme are already recognised/accredited by the UAE MoE and the government of the home country
- KHDA: minimum of 50% face to face; pilot project now underway



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Innovation in UAE TNE: Two Requests

1. One single licensing and accreditation system across the UAE
2. Much more flexibility with regard to the recognition of **high quality** online and distance learning programmes

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- 400 2040 8400
- creativity@city.ac.uk
- @creativity_city #MICL
- <http://creativity.city.ac.uk/>

Go on, take the MICL

City, University of London
Northampton Square
London
EC1V 0HB
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7040 5060
E: department@city.ac.uk
www.city.ac.uk/department

Thank you for listening